

Interview of Doris Hope by Oonagh O'Connor, 1995

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So this is Doris Hope. I'm speaking with her in her home in Refuge Cove.

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It's May 2, 1995, and I'm Oonagh O'Connor. So when did you get this store, Doris? When did you and your husband come here?

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We came in 45. Norman's brother and his wife were in partnership with us. There was a five-room apartment in the back of the store building, the part of the store building. So they moved in there and Norm and I, this house was over in the bay over there. It was too far away from the source of power at that time, which was a pelton wheel with 32 volts, you see. So we had Aladdin lamps, and I had told Norman when we came up here, I am willing to go.

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I didn't (know?).

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My first stipulation was that if there were high mountains around it, there's no use because I'm very claustrophobic and I couldn't live like that. So he assured me there weren't, so I said I'd go. I said, well, I want indoor plumbing and some power. You know, that's all my demands were.

So we didn't have it. And also, the sun doesn't get on that side of the bay, you know, for months. And none of them are getting any sun yet. And it wasn't very pleasant there. So, the amusing thing is, my mother came to visit, who has been a city person all her life, and there was a towboat in the channel towing a house on a float. So she asked me about it, and I said, oh yes, people here, you know, build their houses in such a manner that they can be taken off the land and put on the float and moved wherever, the logging maybe, or whatever. So she said, well, why can't you move this house? And you know, I said, never occurred to any one of us. She, I mean, it was really hilarious. Which is exactly what we did. And oh, the difference, you know, the difference in temperature and everything else in the house, and not to mention the view.

So that's how we got into this house. But then they were with us until 1958. And they had a child. And they wanted to go to the city, you know, so the child could go to school there. There's a business of boarding them out. And, you know, it didn't suit them. So

they went, and we moved to the apartment behind the store to facilitate coping with the store. You know the difference if you're there.

Who was it that was running the store then?

Just Norman and me. And so there was no... we never got away from here together for ten years. He'd go to town, and then I would go, because who's going to look after it, you know?

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Where did the supplies for the store come from?

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Well, they came out in the old steam ships, the Union Steamships, in the earlier days, and then Gulf Lines took over, and they brought it up. But it was quite a deal, once a week with the old Union, you know, and no way of getting stuff in, except when Bobby Lyndon started his airline up here. In that case, if we got really short, we could phone him and he would pick stuff up and bring it over for us. But until then, what we had on the boat was what we had, no recourse. But it was tremendously a lot of fun.

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Did you come here from the city?

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Yes, from Vancouver, yeah. It was quite a change. And we fortunately had experience around boats. Norman and two or three other lads had a boat, about all you could call it, you know, about a 37-foot-old clinker(?). But we were all used to rowboats and it and swimming and the water and that. So that was really quite a help, because of course you're in the boats immediately when you get to a place like that. But we really thought we were going to be vegetating, you might say, up here. And I was 35, and my husband 37.

We came up on the old Union Steamship arriving one or two o'clock in the morning, and they put us in a house that used to be over there, and put us to bed. And then we got up, and at nine o'clock the next morning we went over to the store. And it was full of people. And we just stood there for some class (?) or so, and, you know, we wondered where the hell all these people had come from.

And, of course, that's the way it was because this was like a hub of a wheel. And in the radius of even up to the head of Toba Inlet and everywhere, people would come here to shop. And they'd come on the weekend, Sundays, and Wednesday was the handloggers

day. The other days we had the, you know, the people from Squirrel Cove, Whaletown, places like that. But we just couldn't believe what we were seeing, and I can assure you we never, never vegetated. Anything but that. But it was quite a challenge.

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May I ask you about a particular hand logger? If you remember him, she has a photograph of him, and the only name she could get for it was Fred Wing. Did you know a Japanese hand logger?

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I had never met a Japanese hand-logger. We had a Chinese fisherman but that's the best I can do. No, I would never have met him. He may not have logged in this area. If he hand logged in this area, you could be sure he would have come here. Well, there was no other recourse.

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Apparently, Bill Emery gave her a photograph. Did you know Bill Emery?

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Yes, yes, and his sister. Not well, but I know them. No, we really never did see the Japanese up here until Japanese fishermen came in. They come in every year on the way up and down, you know.

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Did you get to know many native people in the area?

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Oh, yes, yes. They dealt over here. And, of course, it was a very interesting relationship because it ended up that Norm and I acted as intermediaries between them and the police, and them and the Indian Affairs Department, you know. There was really some real great stories to that because they never, the two units, didn't ever stop to think. Well, they'd say to one of them well you be down in Powell River, on X date at X time. And these people are on welfare. How in the hell are they going to get to Powell River if you have to charter a boat or have a taxi? You know, just that kind of stupid way. They just didn't know. So we acted as intermediaries for them, and it was really quite fun, really. They were nice people. The only time we had any troubles was when they were drinking, and they were very troublesome when they were drinking. So were the white ones around here, if I might say, in passing.

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Did you have a liquor store here?

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Oh, no. Norman always kept two or three bottles in the house. If someone, we knew very, very well, wanted a bottle, he would let them have it, or whatever, get re-paid for it. We didn't do like it, we just sold it to them for we paid. But, yeah, there was no liquor store. So, of course, the Indians were after vanilla and anything of that line.

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After the what?

0:08:19

Vanilla. The pure vanilla, they used that all the time. Oh, it's 40% alcohol, you know, pure vanilla. And if we didn't have vanilla, there would be aqua velvet, shave lotion, and burdock's blood bitters, which is a medicine, and some pick me up, which also had alcohol, you see. Oh, I tell you, they had it all worked out. Just hilarious. I thought they couldn't get any booze.

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Can you remember any stories about when you were mediating between the officials and the people?

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There must have been many. A prime example was that Francis and Maggie had a boy by the name of Norman, a very nice young man. He wasn't very old, fourteen or so. I knew him at the time he was a child, of course. They really did everything they could to get that kid a good start, you know. Maggie had had maybe a couple of years of school, and that was all. They were the same age as I could sort of relate, you know. And she came over this day and wanted to borrow \$75, well \$75 to them, and to us, was a lot of money in those days, you know. And of course her options of paying it back were very, very limited - relief money. So I said, what do you want from me, Maggie? And she said, well, the police phoned and Norman had been down in Powell River at the Reserve there and got out with a bunch of young teenagers and they got smart and pulled some sort of trick, these kids did, and Norman got involved. So he was to appear in court. And I said, well, that's ludicrous. There's no way. It's going to cost her damn near the \$75 to go there and back. So I phoned and told them, I said, how would you expect Mrs. Louie to get there with that boy? Well, I said, look, and I told them, I said, you have a boat, you come and get her yourself if you want her down there. And they did.

But this is the kind of thing, it just didn't occur to me, you know. And I'm sure there were other incidents like that, but that's the type of attitude. And of course, I love doing things like that, getting into fights, so it's wonderful for me.

You must like people who have had to tell you.

Oh, I do, I do. And they're interesting people, you know. Maggie Louie did the most beautiful handiwork, baskets, and coached Jane, and she was always making something nice for me, you know. And people would criticize her, and my attitude was, and still is, there but for the grace of God, go I. If I hadn't had the opportunity that my parents were able to give me, what's to say I was going to be any different, or as good as she was. You know, she was intelligent, which is, I think, more important than intellectual, though, anyway, and a delightful person, and oh, hilarious when she was drinking. Oh!

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Was she from Squirrel Cove?

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Oh yes, yes. There were a whole bunch of them over there at that time, each with their idiosyncrasies, you know. But then as I said, well, after all, we have not that much to be proud of. Let's be fair. Are you cold, dear? I'm so sorry.

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No, no. It's okay. I haven't been able to get much history about the people in Squirrel Cove. I wonder if you remember any other people?

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There was Francis and Joe Louie and Johnny Alec, and George Harris, well, not many of them left now because they were all my age. And Hills, Jimmy Hill, his wife is still around in fact.

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There's someone that you could get information about.

Who's the girl from? Lily?

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Lily Hill. Have you met her?

No, I've been trying to though.

Oh, she's wonderful. One always has been. From the first day I met her and Jimmy, the Black family who lived around in the holes... this is Alan Bruna, excuse me, Bruna

0:13:24

Alan: I won't be a minute

0:13:26

Yes and instead of leaving, well we didn't want to stay on but they didn't leave any of the people that owned it to manage it. They brought in people they didn't know, one end and the other, and they'd come in here, charter an airplane to come in here to look at the plumbing that wasn't working. They wouldn't do anything, but they'd look at it, you know. You have never in your life seen such mismanagement. It couldn't have been worse than open-air sitting here watching as we sold it to them, and are not paid yet. So finally we said we wanted it back and we got it back, too. Because we could prove that, you know, we lost money on them. But we got it back. So then it's on the market again and Gibbons came to us. He was doing social work in town at that time with small children and it was getting to them. And he said I just want to get out of this rat-race. And he said, would you consider giving me a couple of months to see if I can round up enough people to share with me and buy it? So we gave him the time. And he and almost all the group here all went to Vancouver College at the same time and grew up in the same environment as the school environment and everything. So that's why we have all the PhDs or whatever you want to call it, you know. They all originated through this school attachment, you know. All the...

Is that your boat?

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A sailboat coming in here?

Oh, it's a sailboat.

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No, I didn't think so. Not from that. I just had two eyes done surgery, and that's how much improved, and I got...

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Now, what were we talking about? Where were we?

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Where were we? The last trip to see... your last time seeing her.

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I beg your pardon?

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You're talking about the last time you saw Lily Hill.

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Yes, yes. Oh, gosh, you've asked about that many times.

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I'm not even sure. Yes, I did tell Lily, I think, that my problem.

Mary Ann McCoy was asking me this morning, oh, here comes another boat,

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to ask you if you knew that the boat that, or the house that Jack Parry got from Von Donop, did they move that over here and live in it?

0:16:02

No, they lived in what we called our brown house, which is since gone. It was just the other side of the store, in front of the gift shop there.

0:16:10

Okay.

0:16:11

When they were here, Jack's gone now too, isn't he? Jack Pye, she died a long time ago of cancer, negligence. She was told to go to Victoria. I think John DePew told her to get down there right away and she didn't go and she's gone in no time flat.

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What did he die of?

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Cancer. Oh he? I don't know.

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I always get this information weeks later, second hand, you know I really don't know. But, uh...

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They were a nice couple.

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Jack, when he was drinking, was not nice. He was one of those people who get ugly when they get drinking.

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Oh, God, yeah. I remember.

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Well, he was a great help when we first came. You'd have someone that knew the ropes and so on. We needed that.

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Was it the Tindalls that were on the store before you?

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Yes. Interestingly enough, Jack Tindall sold to us, and with the money that he got from us, he went in the partnership with Jim Spilsbury, and still being tender, and radio things. And Jim Spilsbury is my brother-in-law now. Comes full circle, you know.

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Talk about the Indians, in Squirrel Cove.

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My God, I wish I had one of our books here that, you know, you kept accounts in. But before, we lost everything like that.

You had a fire at the store?

Oh yeah, we lost everything in 1968. Just before, within hours before the sale was to go through, which was interesting. And, uh, however, Norman bought this barge in Vancouver, we made an agreement with these people, and had it fixed up and loaded it with freight and put it up here and tied it to the main dock and we had it down there for a while. Then Norm built a cribbing and it was ashore. Yeah. And the fire happened. My sister was up here helping.

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Is this Norm, your husband?

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Yes. And they had taken stock that day. And we went into the house, into our apartment, I was lying down. Norm was in the post office still finalizing, you know, sending and finalizing. And the lights started to flicker, which always meant that he came out of the store through our apartment door and down the back steps to the light plant which was down on the deck here. And thinking it was the light plant, he got outside and there was smoke coming the whole length of the building from the basement. So he grabbed Rene and told her to get the hell out of there, went rushing back to the post office till, the gold money, went back into the post office and shoveled post office things, he had them on the counter, into a mail bag and he was going to go

out the back window in the post office. He looked around and there was a sheet of flame and he had to, almost got his bottom singed, get him out himself in minutes, all the way up to the front. And it's a, well, of course, an old, old wooden building. And they didn't even have a pencil, a piece of paper. They didn't have any food. They had nothing. And fortunately, Norman was the type of person that always helped people if they needed help with their engines or whatever, you know, anything we could do. Oh my God, the Calwells, you know, uh... *Midge and Cliff?* Midge and Cliff Calwell were over here at Seaford, and it was Doreen who saw the fire and reported it. Doreen, but it begins with B, the second name now. Living at Seaford now.

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Oh yeah, she's one of the...

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Oh, isn't it a G? Guthrie?

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Yes, yes, that's right. And Cliff and Mitch came over at daylight, brought Norman a bottle of gin and a shirt and a pair of pants. And Bobby Langdon heard about it, he was over here with his aircraft, first thing. The Imperial Oil Fuel Barge had been in the day before, they were up channel. They came back. Roy Edmondson, who owned Lund at that time, came up here at daylight to see what he could do to help. You wouldn't believe people came from all over. I was in town. I'd just come out of hospital. I mean, I had my cancer surgery. And Roy went back and got a little generator, brought it up. You have to have the post office operational, you see, almost immediately. And everybody helped. It was just unbelievable. It paid off what Norman had done for all those years further in.

And Bobby Langdon took Rene to Campbell River. And it was Monday, and all the stores were closed. But he got the managers and got them to open them and get them some food. But fortunately this house was saved, and the brown house, because the fire came to just along the walk here, just a few feet along here. And not quite to the brown house but they had a hell of a time getting from A to B but at least they got to the brown house and got things sort of organized. But nothing. You don't realize, you know, when you say nothing, they wouldn't even have a pencil or a piece of paper to write down a note. For instance, if they had a fire over here, and, you know, dropped a bed (?). But if you don't have the post office running, the government will not replace the ramp or anything else. Why would they? They'd have to do it for every private party that had a store, you see.

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But couldn't you have the post office not running for a day or two?

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They had it pretty well within the next day, I think, because they generated some power. And they got, you know, the post office. Oh, the postmaster came over, of course, right away. And Norman had saved her all along. He was very pleased with Norman for that matter. So they cooperated also, you know, bringing whatever requisite things were. But, well, they made out really well. I didn't get home for a couple of months. I wasn't allowed to be jiggled about. *How did you hear about it?* Oh, the police phoned me. Betty Gibbons, as a matter of fact. I was staying with her. *Was that Norm's mother?* Yes, yes. And she said it's a man. A man's voice. It was late at night, 11:30 or so. And all of a sudden I felt there was something wrong, you know, in some sense.

[To someone who came into the house with a young child.] "Come on in. Hello. There's a couch in the kitchen. Just go through there. It's all right, don't worry. It's all right. You'll see it there. Just lay him down on there. We won't be disturbed by him."

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Before you go, you must have a look at my house. You won't see two houses like this. Believe me.

So this is... This isn't a float house, but you floated it over here?

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Oh, yes. Yes.

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We added this room to it. This is the back porch here.

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Yes, yes.

It's 80 years, 84 years, same age as I. And it's beginning to show its age, much like I am. It's not beginning.

It looks pretty strong still, though, just like you do.

Well, I'm hoping so. If the underpinnings stand, we're all right. Last year, we had a leak here. You wouldn't believe it. In the summertime, this place is full of people all the time. People whom I've met over the years, the yachters and they come to see me in the

summer. And we had a great big gaping hole here. But we also had a big piece of white plastic over all this stuff, because it was leaking right over all this expensive equipment. And so we'd have this white plastic, and a big bucket on the floor. You know, having a parlour with all the, you know, the Dresden china and all these things. And would your friend, whoever, this gentleman is.

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Bruce... what?

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Livingston. Oh, Bruce Livingston. Yeah. And what I'm trying to say is, do you think you'd like some tea or something?

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Oh, um, maybe... I think he's just trying to put Sean back to sleep.

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Yeah. Okay.

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Sean is my son. Yeah. Bruce is his father.

Oh, I see. Yeah. Excuse me, but I didn't... I was expecting two boys to come in the door.

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I didn't realize you had an older person with you. So, uh, I'm going to go and get some tea.

Now I natter so much... garrulous old biddy one of my brothers-in-law used to say.

Tell me, Doris, what kind of things you used to have to do as a manager of the store or owner of the store?

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Now?

Then.

0:26:52

Oh, then?

0:26:53

Yeah. Well, we had, in the initial stages, we had a fish buying unit down there. And I would do all the stocking and ordering.

Did you have a packer down there?

No, no, the packer came in to pick up the fish, but we bought fish here for a few years. And running a store in a place like this is quite a bit more difficult than where your source of supply is nearer. You know? But it was fun. And we had a wonderful bunch of people all year round, every day then. And so we had an excellent stock of everything so that towboats chose to come in and get really huge orders, you know, and lots of diesel so we were very busy.

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So did you run the gas station too then?

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Oh yes, yes, yes. We had the hoses were down in front of the freight shed and then at the top of the ramp on the flat part we had a shed which had the meters in it.

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So you must have lost all your records then, too, in that fire.

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Oh, sure. Everything. Everything. But, well, interestingly enough, we had quite a lot of credit bids. It was amazing how many people didn't bother to pay their bills because I guess they figured we had no proof, you know? We were quite surprised at that. People who had been running (counting) on us, you know, to keep their families going. But when the chips came down, they sure didn't come and offer to pay up and help us, you know. But that's human nature.

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But a lot of people... it sounds like a lot of people did help you, though.

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Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I mean, it balanced off. But I found it very disappointing. And people that I would have thought might have been a little more aware, you know, but they weren't. Would you like a cup of tea or something?

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Pardon?

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Are you? Yeah, well, sit yourself down or whatever.

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You're most welcome to stay if you'd like to. I don't know where else you'd go in the rain, which is not too desirable.

What kind of things did people do around here? You had this store, but what kinds of other things were...

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Oh, at that time, local fishermen, commercial fishermen, and then in the season, of course, they fished Toba Inlet then for the chums and things and there was a lot of fishing in this area. Now of course it's gone. And the hand loggers and the local, small local logging operations that, you know, they did all their shopping here. So it was really fine. And it was fine until about 1968. No, before that, because we sold in 68. About, say, 66. The forestry industry arbitrarily stated that they were going to work 10 days on and 4 days off. Well, of course, before, the boys had Sunday off. 9 to 9 o'clock they'd work until they'd get overtime money on Saturday. They'd have Sunday off. And they would come down here and buy their underwear, their boots, their this, whatever they needed. They would come and buy here a cigarette and so on, which was fine.

But when they have the four days off and they can go home, obviously they're going to do the shopping there because it's much cheaper than we can - you can't begin to sell things in a store like this at the price you can buy them somewhere else. So there went that business just like that. And we had a tremendous towboat business here, because we broke our necks to get up at any time, day or night, you know, to serve them. And then they decided that they, different fuel companies would put out, you had to tender with them for who would give them the best price, you see? So, we're Imperial, and their contract, they didn't get the contract. It went to some Gulf or something. So their towboats couldn't come in here and fill up. There was nothing I could do about it. Mind you, the towboats were very cooperative. They would phone the office and say, well, we're at Teakerne, and we have to go into Refuge. We can't get to, you know, they worked on it. So it helped a lot, but there was no way it could replace that. That was the backbone of our business. So they literally cut the ground right under our feet. Just as neatly as they could have done it, after all this effort we put into, you know.

Does the store do very well now?

Well, it's only open in the summer time for at least two and a half months. And they do... Excuse me. There's lots of tourist traffic, so they do quite well then. And then the

owners can go on unemployment insurance all winter, so it's, you know, actually a pretty good deal. But I don't know what they do if there was no unemployment insurance. They certainly wouldn't make enough to carry it through the summer, the winter months, you know. So, but they sure are busy in the summer. Of course, this is the only place you can get fuel. And this is the only absolutely safe harbour from north, from Secret Cove, Pender Harbour. All these little nooks and crannies up here, they think they're safe until it blows, then they find out they're not safe at all.

0:33:07

How about Squirrel Cove?

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Oh, terribly dangerous place, particularly in a southeaster. It blows right in there. And there's no protection of any kind at all. The nor'wester comes out over that draw, but it doesn't hit - they're better then than a Southeaster. It took Gibbons' boat, his aluminum boat, and left it [inaudible]. That's how bad it was. And it's done that with others also. So it's not by any means, and not to mention this very little room, because there's so many local people, people at fish farms and all that come. There you go.

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What about the business that the store over at Squirrel Cove - does it serve as seeing a different market than yours was? Or was it also a competition?

Are you thinking about when we first came here? Well, when we came, the store had changed not too long before to this couple. We met them a few times. I don't even remember their name. But it was in bankruptcy then, and so it closed because there was no store there for a long time. And then, but Irv and Doreen, particularly Doreen, have done a magnificent job over there. It's very, very highly thought of. And they have a good store. So it's great. But we were the only place. But one thing that I resented, that I was all set to go in and raise hell about it, and no one let me, they put a liquor store in here, which is a wonderful thing. Yes, we didn't get it until... It must have been 67 or 68. And not long after that, we sold it. But then they went and put it into Squirrel Cove. Right next to an Indian reserve, to start with, which was ludicrous. But, you know, it was grossly unfair. We've been established here for all these years. And then they again cut the ground from under it, so to speak, you know. I never did. Somebody had to pull somewhere to get that through, because they don't put liquor stores near an Indian reserve at any time. I was really fraught. I was ready to commit mayhem.

So are there other... there's this community here, I guess by the water. Are there other people living on the island? (West Redonda)

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On this island?

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No. I think I can say no one lives on the island. There are fish farms that have houses ashore. But it's all common land. There's a piece of private property at Redonda Bay. And there's a piece in Lewis Channel, a small piece. And this and the house in the far corner that's private land and in the hole here. And that's all the private land there is on this island. So there are no permanent residents, shall we put it. And little Redonda's the same, it's a reserve too, mind you, the government is letting people get onto Crown Lands these days. You see advertisements in the newspaper for it, you know. This group of lawyers that bought the property from us had wonderful ideas. They were going to divide it off into lots. They had a graph made, you know, how many of these lots they could sell. There's over 2,000 feet of waterfront, say, on the property, and almost 200 acres, so it divided off to a nice group of home sites or whatever you want to call it, and these are all lawyers, and not one of them evidently had the sense to go and investigate a 10-acre field. And that's when they started to look askance. They never even investigated. Hope and I were quite pleased about that. But they had great visions of making all this money, you see, and of course they can do it.

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It sure would have changed the nature of the place.

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Oh, it would have been sacrilegious, you know. There's this gang here that own it now, and they fight tooth and nail to keep them from bringing, you know, other people in over and above the 18 shareholders we have here. For instance, they sold a timber sale in behind, which the government has been known to do. All the hell did break loose here, I can tell you.

There's your electrician. Yeah. How are you at electric things?

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Electric?

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You're not an electrician by any remote chance. You can do this one right now. They're having a small problem out there.

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So do you remember any other characters from Cortes or from the area that...

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I remember the dances over there. There were always fights.

You used to go over?

We did at first, go, but we didn't go for very long because what would happen, we'd go over from here in one of our boats, you know. And someone would take us in their car to Mansons hall and they would promise that they would take us back to our boat at, say, midnight or what, because we had to get up and leave the boat, you see, at the middle of the night quite often and the store for customers on Sunday morning. And then, of course, they get drunk and we'd end up sitting on those bloody benches, you know, around that, wheezing to death, hungry and tired, and nobody to drive us back over. Well, you don't do that more than two or three times before you decide that the game's not worth the camera. So that was the end of that.

But when we did go, there was this couple, and I want to say Danielson, but it's not Danielson, but it's a Scandinavian name, something like that. Husband and wife were both, she was a big woman like I, and a big husband. And her favourite game of the dancers was to dance with the men and flirt with them, you see. Then the man would probably respond in some mild manner. The next thing, the husband would come along and take a whack at the husband, the other one come along and he'd take a whack at the guy who was making things for the wife. And she did it all the time. What the hell was her name? Oh, I can't remember. It was expected that every dance there would be that kind of a fight, you know.

And then the Armstrong brothers who lived at Seaford, Julie Smith, who is Doreen's mother's sister, was married to Milton Armstrong. And there were these Swiss brothers, two of whom had been in the army, where they go in a small group, all masked and disguised. They go ahead and raise hell. What are they called?

Militia maybe? The militia just came to mind, but I don't know.

0:41:32

Militia? 0:41:36

No, commandos. They'd been commandos. So they knew how to handle themselves. And they used to come over to the store here and buy dried figs, dried prunes, dried this, dried that. And they made their own homemade booze right over there. And they'd probably come Wednesday and they'd be drinking it on Saturday at the party. And of course, get very, very drunk. Oh, talk about fights. Johnny Thompson and his wife, Johnny and Kay, she was also a sister to... That doesn't mean the lights are on in here, that went before, but it's the breaker we're having trouble with ...They went to a dance

program one night and we didn't see Johnny come out the door. So I said to Kay, what's the matter with Johnny? She said, oh, he's not feeling too well. Jack was still here in the store, you know, and the door opened this day and Jack was behind the counter, and I was in the middle of the store, and in comes Johnny, two of the biggest shiners you have ever seen in your life. And Jack never batted an eye, neither did I. We just, you know, and Johnny King got what he wanted and went and we just about exploded. You can just imagine that's why we hadn't seen Johnny. And then these two brothers had cleaned house on him the last party.

And the Ellingsons, you mentioned May Ellingson and Elmer, yeah. I've always regretted that I didn't live close enough to have a closer association with them, you know, but I never see them hardly. They're such a delightful couple, and their sons Bruce and Andy.

I can't imagine them fighting.

0:43:39

No, no, no.

0:43:41

No, it was just the element over there, you know, it was very drunken. *Did you hear Elmer playing the accordion?*

0:43:51

Oh yes, yes, indeed, yes.

0:43:53

Did you ever have dances over here?

0:43:55

Oh yes, in the store.

0:43:57

We used to push all the counters back into dances here and over there regularly.

0:44:05

Were there people from over from Cortes?

0:44:07

Oh, sure. The Union boat was in here one night. And the Union Steamship boat stayed over, and they had 75 people off the boat, up on the door with the rest of the crowd.

0:44:22

Dancing.

0:44:23

Yeah, and then before we, you know, when the party was over, to sweep and this old floor that was just about that thick, you know, and people caulk boots, apparently, wrecked the floor anyway, but the dust would come up. We had to get that all squared away, ready to open up the next morning.

0:44:40

Tell me you're writing this down.

0:44:42

No, it's OK. I just did it the wrong way. I'm trying to think of other people who I knew over there. There was another couple who were very close friends of Elmer and May.

0:44:58

Elmer and May.

0:44:59

Elmer and May. And they moved to Campbell River a little time later, so I've never seen them since. But they were very intimate friends of Elmer and they... I should remember their names

0:45:18

I don't I also, we also knew Elmer's father. He was a fascinating man, he was a real purist about food he had his own milk, wine, wheat his bread and so on. And he also invented the Ellingsen jack. *What was his name?* L... S... No.

0:45:47

Sigurd. It was Sigurd.

Did you know Ottie? or Otto? Otto. No, I don't think so.

0:45:56

Was it Otto?

0:45:58

Otto? No, I don't think so. Maybe that was his brother.

0:46:04

I don't know. I'm pretty sure that wasn't his father's name. I'm not positive, but I'm pretty sure. And he used to come in here and [inaudible]. He also expounded the theory that one didn't need to wear glasses. In fact, he gave me a book called Sight Without Glasses, in other words, exercising your eyes.

Elmer is still is he talking about that.

Yes, yes. He was telling me that they had to improve my eyesight. Yes, and it's right too, you know. I have another couple of American friends, they were involved in Bliss Lading. He started it there. And they're both mentally rather than taking physical action. You know, for instance, they object to blood transfusions and things like that. You see, I'll just leave out a little bit. Mary Baker Eddy was the one that started it. Many years ago now, but that's what these people do, they don't...

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